**CSI**



**Color, Symbol, Image**

Think of the big ideas and important themes in what you have just read, seen or heard.

* Choose a colour that you think best represents the essence of that idea.
* Create a symbol that you think best represents the essence of that idea.
* Sketch an image that you think best captures the essence of that idea.

The use of using colours, symbols and images taps into students’ natural creativity and desire for expression. It also pushes students to make connections and think metaphorically. Students can identify and distill the essence of ideas that have been taken from their reading, viewing and or listening in nonverbal ways by using colour, symbols and images to represent the big ideas they have identified. Metaphors are a major vehicle for developing our understanding of ideas as we connect something new to something we already know. (This reminds me of; I think that because; this is like that because)

Note: there is no need to formally introduce metaphors until students are older and students’ connections are personal and need to be understood in terms of the individual’s explanation.

**Steps:**

1. **Set up**: After viewing, listening, reading, students think about the core ideas and make not of things that they find interesting, important and or insightful.
2. **Choose a colour-** Select a colour that represents the core ideas they have identified in the material being explored. Record the colour.
3. **Create a symbol-** select a symbol that they feel represents the core idea identified in the piece of content being explored. A symbol that can stand for something else. Ex; dove=peace. Record the symbol and then explain the choices.
4. **Sketch an image**- select an image that they feel represents the core idea he or she has identified in the piece of content being explored. An image is meant to be like a photo of drawing of the scene. It is meant to capture the idea in an image not to be mistaken for a work of art.
5. **Share the thinking**- Working with a partner of group, share the CSI and explain the connections and choices.



**Ex: Diary of a Young Girl**

**Image**

Through this passage Anne talks about how she and Peter aren’t really as different as they seem on the surface. Just like the apples, they look different but are similar in many ways.

**Symbol**

In this diary entry Anne doubts she can keep her longing to reach Peter under control. She must wait until the silence breaks between them and they can act as their true selves

**Colour**

Anne is unsure of what the future will hold for her and Peter. Black, like a chalkboard, represents al the different possibilities that could be drawn for their future.